

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01423 211647Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 L-03 H-02 SAJ-01

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1195

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1423

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, WB, UR

SUBJECT: RUDOLF HESS

REF: BONN 11700

1. WE ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT BISHOP SCHARF'S REPORT THAT SOVIETS ARE ALLEGEDLY READY TO TRADE IN HESS FOR AN ANTI-FASCISM MEMORIAL IN WESTERN SECTORS (REFTEL). NO SUCH RUMOR HAS COME TO OUR ATTENTION RECENTLY THOUGH IDEA THAT SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO KEEP SPANDAU GOING ON FOUR POWER BASIS FOR INDEFINITE FUTURE HAS LONG BEEN BRUITED ABOUT.

2. ALLIED MISSIONS ARE PRESENTLY FAIRLY FAR ALONG ON DRAFTING ON CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR DISPOSITION OF HESS' REMAINS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF 1970 QUADRIPARTITE GOVERNORS' DECISION THAT BODY SHOULD BE CREMATED AND TURNED OVER TO FAMILY. IDEA WOULD BE TO DEVELOP AGREED PROCEDURES SO THAT SOVIETS WOULD NOT HAVE EXCUSE OF
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PAGE 02 USBERL 01423 211647Z

GRAVE WITHIN PRISON GROUNDS TO URGE CONTINUED FOUR-POWER

PRESENCE IN SPANDAU AS WOULD HAVE BEEN CASE UNDER 1954
PRISON REGULATION PROVIDING FOR BURIAL WITHIN
PRISON. WE WOULD EXPECT TO REFER PROPOSALS TO BONN
GROUP AND CAPITALS FOR VIEWS WITHIN NEXT FEW WEEKS.
PAPER SUMMARIZING MISSION'S CONCLUSIONS BEING POUCHED
EUR/CE AND EMBASSY BONN.

3. WHILE WE ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT SCHARF'S RUMOR, OUR
INCLINATION WOULD BE TO AVOID OUTRIGHT NEGATIVE
POSTURE. SOVIETS ALREADY HAVE MORE MEANINGFUL PERMANENT
PRESENCE IN WESTERN SECTORS IN BASC, CONSULATE
GENERAL AND VARIOUS COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS PERMITTED
BY QA AS WELL AS TIERGARTEN MEMORIAL. A FULLY GUARDED
EMPTY MEMORIAL PRISON WOULD BE ABSURD, BUT SOME SORT OF
MONUMENT OR SMALL MUSEUM IN COURTYARD OR IN VICINITY OF
PRISON WALLS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IF THIS WERETO BE PRICE FOR
CLOSING BOOKS ON SPANDAU OPERATION. GEORGE

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